



**Long Term Care Coordinating Council
Working Group to Develop a State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease and
Related Disorders**

Full Group Meeting

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 30th, 2013

Child and Family (formerly Casey Family Services)

Main Conference Room

1268 Eddy Street

Providence, RI 02903

DRAFT MINUTES

Cynthia Conant-Arp	Faith Sands	Patricia Chace
Rick Gamache	Anne Cabral	Kathleen Heren
Lola Oknfolami	Vivian Spencer	Michael Cronan
Erin Casey	Gail Patry	Darlene Kershaw
Amanda Clarke	Bernadette Massa	Nancy Ewing
Mary Johns	Kathleen Kelly	Elaine Jones
Kathy McKeon	Terry Rochon	Debbie Robertson
Peter Snyder	John O'Haral	Jennifer Krueger
Donna Leong	Sadie DeCourcy	Lindsay McAllister Lang
Director Catherine Taylor	Lt. Governor Roberts	

I. Call to Order

Lt. Governor Roberts called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of minutes from June 6th, 2013 meeting

The minutes and presentation from the full workgroup meeting on June 6th were sent out through email. The minutes were approved.

III. Staffing transition for the Alzheimer's workgroup

Lindsay McAllister Lang will be taking the role of legal counsel at HealthSource RI and will be leaving the Lt. Governor's Office. Sadie DeCourcy will take over for Lindsay in the role of Health Policy Director at the Lt. Governor's Office. She will serve as the main staffer for the Alzheimer's Workgroup. Donna Leong from the Lt. Governor's Office will be assisting Sadie in the Alzheimer's Workgroup as well.

IV. Update on Alzheimer's efforts from the summer

Lt. Governor Roberts and Director Taylor were continuing the work of the RI State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders this summer in different capacities.

Director Taylor read to the workgroup members a letter that Senate President Paiva-Weed wrote to Lt. Governor Roberts and Director Taylor, commending them on the work of the Alzheimer's State Plan. Director Taylor stated that the Rhode Island State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders was well-received by the General Assembly.

Lt. Governor Roberts was involved in outreach efforts for the state plan and engaged with media to spread the word about the new plan. Over the summer and into the fall, Lt. Governor Roberts was interviewed by several media outlets, including: the Deb Ruggiero Show, RIPR, Latino Public Radio, American News, and the Pawtucket Times.

Director Taylor stated that there are already some recommendations from the state plan in motion. A few of her updates:

- Rhode Island is in its last stages of procurement for a transportation broker
- The Living RIte program from URI just graduated its first group of mentors.
- Director of Health Dr. Michael Fine has new trainings up for emergency response innovations in order to prevent the inappropriate use of 911. The Department of Health will deliver the trainings in the near future.
- The Rhode Island Medical Society and Rhode Island Business Society have begun dialogue about what their responsibilities are in the case of elder financial abuse.
- Rhode Island has applied for the continuing Medicaid 1115 Waiver in order to help individuals who have early onset Alzheimer's.

It was noted that the Lifespan respite program is providing funding for CareBreaks, but because of sequestration, there is a waitlist for enrollment.

Kathy Heren stated that there will be a seminar held in the future that will be a forum for healthcare providers to talk about the frustrations that come with taking care of patients with dementia.

Peter Snyder stated that Brown University, along with nine other institutions, will be holding an innovation symposium that will encourage entrepreneurs to design for an aging population. The symposium will be focused on economic development.

V. Recommendations for first phase of implementation (presentation attached)

Lt. Governor Roberts and Director Taylor introduced the first phase of implementation through a presentation. Lt. Governor Roberts explained that the recommendations for the first phase of implementation were considered based on the recommendations of the subgroup chairs, the financial resources needed, and the amount of support that the recommendation had. The first phase of implementation will be around 12 months, coinciding with the time that Lt. Governor Roberts and Director Taylor have left in office.

Both stated that it is important to enact the recommendations now so that the state plan for Alzheimer's will be a living document.

The subgroups that were used to create the state plan will be retired and new taskforces will be created in order to target efforts towards implementing recommendations. Please see presentation (attached) for information on the first phase of implementation.

Comments regarding the caregivers recommendations: When screening for caregiver burnout, there should be other factors that are screened, such as overload.

Comments regarding the cross-cutting resource management: There was a comment that there is an RFP out right now that hopes to combine the regional POINT agencies.

Comments regarding the transportation recommendations: Lt. Governor Roberts noted that there is a need to manage transportation across the income spectrum.

Comments regarding the legal recommendations: Kathy Heren asked whether there is a protocol for seniors retaking driving courses. Lt. Governor Roberts noted that the conversation of safe driving will be pursued and there will be discussions on the topic between the Alzheimer's Workgroup, the DMV, and senior advocates. It was also brought up in conversation that the YMCA has been in discussion with AARP to talk about the costs of elderly driving courses. It was noted that the Alzheimer's Workgroup should engage with AARP and AAA to discuss safe driving for elders.

Comments regarding workforce recommendations: There was discussion in the workgroup that while CMEs do bridge knowledge gaps for workforce who engage with people living with dementia, there needs to be standardized curricula from the beginning in general education and academics, not just through CMEs.

Comments regarding long-term care recommendations: There was discussion about whether it would be possible to allow Medicaid waivers to cover people living with Alzheimer's Disease or dementia. Currently, an Alzheimer's or dementia diagnosis is not considered a medical diagnosis.

Comments regarding cultural competency recommendations: There was discussion that there should be cultural and ESL training for workforce and caregivers; however, it was noted that these trainings would need to be held in the respective communities for the content to be relevant and reflective of the actual cultural differences in each.

Comments regarding research recommendations: Peter Snyder noted that there is a need in the clinical trials for multicultural patients so that the findings can be reflective of a broader population. It was noted that the proposed Alzheimer's conference would not necessarily be a forum for best practices exchange, but would be a time when all of the people who work within the spectrum of care for Alzheimer's and dementia can convene.

VI. Public Comment

Director Taylor noted that November is National Family Caregiver Month and that there was a kickoff event at the state house on November 1st to celebrate.

Additionally, Director Taylor noted that Child and Family is now a DEA elderly case management agency.

VII. Adjourn

The Alzheimer's Workgroup meeting was adjourned at 11:30. The next meeting for the full workgroup will be on February 19th at Child and Family (1268 Eddy St). There will be new taskforce meetings to move forward with the recommendations in the mean time.

Questions? Please email Donna Leong at dleong@ltgov.state.ri.us